

## MEMORANDUM

TO: State Bar of Michigan  
FROM: Gordon S. Gold, Chair, Litigation Section  
RE: 2005-2006 Litigation Section Annual Report  
DATE: April 25, 2006

---

Dear Secretary:

This has been an exciting and active year for our Section.

I. Strategic Planning Committee

The year was kicked off on September 23, 2005 by the Strategic Planning Retreat as part of the Michigan State Bar annual meeting in Lansing. Many of our section members attended this invaluable session and came away with helpful information as to the future of our Section. Stacie Behler was chairperson of the follow-up committee, and Sue Keener and Ken Morgan are actively working on it.

II. Programs

a. Masters in Litigation Seminar Series

A very successful Masters in Litigation program was held in conjunction with ICLE on March 14, 2006 – “Selecting and Influencing your Jury” – presented by Dr. Susan Jones.

Our Section is also a co-sponsor with ICLE of the 2006 Ultimate Trial Notebook scheduled for May 9, 2006 in Troy, Michigan. Future scheduled Masters in Litigations programs are:

1. October 24, 2006 – Stephen Easton – “Thinking Inside the Box – Building Strong Relationships with the Judge and Jury.” This will be at the Inn at St. Johns, Plymouth, Michigan.
2. March 15, 2007 – Russ Herman – “Cutting Edge Court Room Persuasion.” Also at the Inn at St. Johns.

b. Summer Conference

I want to emphasize an important event – our annual Litigation Section Summer Conference, this year being held in Ann Arbor on July 14-15 at the Kensington Court Hotel. The program includes a presentation entitled “Clarence Darrow-Crimes, Causes and the Courtroom”

presented by Jonathan Thatcher (Periakto Production), a one man show. This program has received rave reviews wherever presented. The eminent Dr. Emanuel Tanay will also be a guest speaker on the program. In past years, our Summer Conference has been held “up north” with modest participation of our members. We decided on Ann Arbor as a more central location with great accommodations, restaurants, night life, etc., that the whole family can appreciate.

Jon Groat is the chairperson in charge of these events and he has done a masterful job.

### III. Website

Ken Morgan, a new and active council member, set up a sharepointe site for our section at <http://maplc.asp-1.net/msblitcouncil/default.aspx>. Ken put a great deal of effort into this and other technological issues.

### IV. Financial

Financially, our Section, as always, is strong. As of March, 2006, we had a surplus of over \$100,000. A substantial portion is used to fund our share of the upcoming Masters in Litigation programs and other events, but we will still be more than solvent. Our membership is stable, increasing slightly from last year. Our biggest issue is getting more members involved and we did send out a survey to members last year that produced helpful suggestions. Our Section also generously donated \$3,500 to the Michigan Center for Civic Education, a non-profit organization that runs the Michigan High School Mock Trial Program. To anyone who has participated as a judge, student advisor, student, etc., this is a wonderful volunteer program for high school students, involving an intense statewide competition with the finals in Lansing.

### V. Publications

The next edition of our seasonal newsletter is due out next week. Brad Sysold and Matt Lager have devoted a great deal of time and energy to this newsletter, which will contain articles of current interest to litigators.

Finally, I would like to thank Sue Keener – Secretary, Brad Sysol, Chair-Elect, and James Partridge – Treasurer, for all their work and cooperation on all the Section’s work during the past year. It could not have been done without them.

/s/ Gordon S. Gold  
Gordon S. Gold  
Chairperson